

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection and the allowance of all claims now pending in the above-identified patent application (i.e., Claims 36-41 and 48-52) are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

At the outset, it should be recalled that the present invention provides a detachable connection for two elements, such as rods or probes pertaining, for example, to furniture or other equipment for which a strong, but temporary attachment is sought. The present invention, as now claimed, provides a detachable connection of two elements, which includes a bolt arranged between the two elements which are to be detachably connected and a tensioning body having an azimuthally extending slot through which the bolt is penetratable for connecting the bolt at one end to one element of the two elements. The tensioning body is able to rotate relative to the element to which it is attached about an axis extending substantially perpendicular to the bolt with the tensioning body being connected in any rotational position relative to the bolt. Means for fastening the bolt to the tensioning body are rotatable about a longitudinal axis that is distanced from the axis of the tensioning body and substantially parallel thereto, with such means for fastening including a retaining head detachably attached to the bolt

and being rotatable relative to the tensioning body.

In order that the tensioning body is not adversely wedged by forces acting via the bolt, the bolt on the tensioning body should be attached, to the extent possible, centrally on the tensioning body with respect to its longitudinal direction. For this reason, the tensioning body has, for a precise alignment, an azimuthally extending slot, which the bolt penetrates. A tensioning body with this feature may be of, or provide, greater axial extension, which makes an unfavorable wedging even more difficult.

As will be explained in greater detail hereinafter, nowhere in the prior art is such a novel and efficient assembly for a detachable connection of two elements either disclosed or suggested.

By the present amendments, Applicant has provided a newly-proposed drawing FIG. 2 to address, and overcome, the Examiner's 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a), as detailed at Pages 2 - 3 of the instant Response, which shows the "two elements" recited throughout Applicant's claims. Applicant, therefore, submits that the Examiner's drawing objections of the final Office Action should now be appropriate withdrawn.

The Examiner also issued a "new matter" objection to the Specification, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §132, based upon the amendment entered at Page 12, between lines 9-10, as part of

the Response filed January 3, 2003. The new matter objected to by the Examiner, which was based upon a prior version of FIG. 2, which is no longer part of the application, has been cancelled, thereby complying with the Examiner's requirement for overcoming the objection to the Specification as presented in the final Office Action.

Concerning the present claim amendments, Applicant has amended Claims 36-38 and 40, in order to address the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, rejection of the claims, as well as the formal claim objection issued against Claim 40. The amended claims, it is respectfully submitted, now clarify the issues raised by the Examiner in the final Office Action, thereby allowing the Examiner to apply the pertinent prior art to the claims, which Applicant respectfully submits are patentable for the reasons provided in the Response to the first Office Action, filed January 3, 2003.

Applicant has also cancelled Claims 42-46 and 53, thereby mooting various subsidiary issues raised in the 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a) drawing objection, as well as the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, indefiniteness rejection.

In the Response to the first Office Action, the claims added at such time inadvertently omitted any claim numbered as "Claim 47." To avoid any confusion resulting from the omission of any such claim numbering, the present Response indicates that Claim 47 has been "canceled."

A Request for Continued Examination ("RCE") and RCE filing fee of \$375.00 (small entity) is being filed with the present Amendment in light of the finality of the last Office Action. Withdrawal of the finality of the issued Office Action, entry of the foregoing claim amendments, as of right, and a full consideration of the merits of all claims now pending are, therefore, respectfully submitted to be proper.

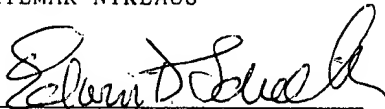
Accordingly, in light of the concurrently-filed Request for Continued Examination and the presently-entered claim amendments, Applicant respectfully contends that the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, indefiniteness rejection has been overcome and should now be appropriately withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully contended that all claims now pending in the above-identified patent application (i.e., Claims 36-41 and 48-52) recite a novel and efficient assembly for a detachable connection of two elements having a tensioning body for securing a connecting bolt therethrough which includes an azimuthally extending slot, which is able to provide the tensioning body with greater axial extension and a more precise alignment, without unfavorable wedging, which is patentably distinguishable over the prior art. Accordingly, withdrawal of the outstanding

objections and rejection, and the allowance of all claims now pending, are respectfully requested and earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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- Enc.: 1. Request for Continued Examination;
2. Petition for Three-Month Extension of time;
3. Check for \$840.00 (RCE Filing Fee (\$375.00)
+ Extension Fee (\$465.00)); and,
4. "Replacement Sheet" for Drawing Containing FIG. 2.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the Deposit Account of Applicants' Attorney, Account No. 19-0450, for any additional fees which may be due in connection with the prosecution of the present application, but which have not otherwise been provided for.